

Is It Objective?

It can be tough to be objective about observations in your classroom when you have so much energy invested in the children and your program. However, the observational data will not be of much use if it is not objective. An objective observation includes facts—what time of day, how many children, what the activity was—rather than descriptive words.

Not Objective: Timmy got really mad and threw a huge temper tantrum.

Objective: During block play, Jason took a block from Timmy. Timmy began yelling and threw three blocks at Jason. When the teacher intervened, he hit and kicked the teacher.

Not Objective: Keyshawn was a good helper today.

Objective: When the teacher asked who would like to help with morning snack, Keyshawn stood up, took the stack of napkins, and passed one out to each child.

Not Objective: Janiah had problems sharing in the housekeeping center.

Objective: Janiah entered the housekeeping center where two children were already pretending to cook breakfast. Janiah pushed the child at the stove and said she was going to cook breakfast now.

Getting to Know New Friends

Observations can help you get to know the new children in your care. Set up a fun activity and write down how each child reacts. Something to try:

Ocean Encounter: Use a 1 1/2 yard length of blue fabric (you may find fabric with fish printed on it). Tell the children you are going to pretend to go to the beach. Have the children sit around the edge of the fabric and hold it by the edge. Show them how to gently lift the cloth up and down to make ocean waves. Toss a couple of plastic fish into your “ocean.” Ask the children if they can make a fish face. Then have them lay the fabric down flat and let each child take a turn “swimming” from one end to the other.

